

March 19, 2019

Dear Members of the General Law Committee

My name is Jennifer A Short and I am from Wallingford, CT. I oppose SB 1085 , that would legalize marijuana for "recreation".

I am concerned about this bill because in November of 2012 I lost my daughter at the age of 20 to an accidental overdose. Had she not been at parties with marijuana and opioids, she may still be here today. Marijuana is a gateway and it led to the loss of a beautiful promising young woman for this world.

The marijuana industry is very dismissive of harm to youth because they say marijuana use is illegal for those under 21. The alcohol and tobacco industries have been equally dismissive, giving little effort to prevent youth from using either. I dismiss their brush-off.

Here is a partial list of potential risks of marijuana's adverse effects on children, teens, and the unborn exposed while the mother is pregnant. These risks are well documented in hundreds of scientific articles: Addiction, Damage to memory, cognition, learning, motivation, IQ, Psychosis, Lower graduation rates, Impaired attention, Driving impairment, Slower reaction times

(World Health, Substance Abuse Journal, Lancet Psychiatry, National Institute on Drug Abuse, Addiction, etc.)

Our Youth Risk Behavior Surveys in CT show that marijuana use equaled and in some towns has exceeded that of alcohol use. Youth use in CO increased 20% in the two years after legalization. It has started to decrease a little but is still 35% greater than the national average. (National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 2015/16)

For the sake of our children, teens and babies, please vote NO on SB1085. You just might save a family the heartache that I have had to endure.

Sincerely,

Jennifer A Short

Wallingford, CT